

# Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

## WATCHWORD 17.12.14

### WATCH updates

#### Climate impacts database

The WATCH climate impacts database now has over 100 informants including producers, gardeners, scientists, health practitioners and engineers. The WATCH website now includes a dedicated section on climate impacts: <http://watch.id.au/local-climate-impacts/> . If you're interested in becoming an informant for the database, or have any questions, please contact Lizette Salmon ([lizette@salmonfamily.id.au](mailto:lizette@salmonfamily.id.au) or 60 59 4185).

#### Get ready for a hot new future

Temperatures in the Albury region will rise two degrees and there will be much less spring rain in 50 years, new data suggests. <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/2754599/get-ready-for-a-hot-new-future/?cs=11>

#### Be Prepared: Climate Change and the Victorian Bushfire Threat - Climate Council

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/cca5e162d00cf1ce25bd4805eec25730.pdf>

#### WATCH on Facebook

Please have a look at the WATCH Facebook page for daily news links: <https://www.facebook.com/wodongaandalburytowardclimatehealth>

### Monster Climate Petition - Victorian Women's Trust

Congratulations to the organisers of the Monster Climate Petition. It certainly lived up to its name. More than 70,000 signatures were collected and delivered in suitcases to Canberra in a big turnout on the lawns outside Parliament House. Cathy McGowan is looking forward to tabling part of the petition when Parliament resumes in 2015. Visit this site to keep up with what's happening. <https://www.facebook.com/monsterclimatepetition>

### Ecoportal <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/>

**Your online directory listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales.**

There are now 61 groups registered on the website! Welcome this month to **Friends of Germantown Streamside Reserve**

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au/organisations/friends-germantown-streamside-reserve>

And **Birdlife Ovens and Murray**: <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/organisations/birdlife-ovens-and-murray>

*From the Ecoportal team, Karen Retra, Jenny Davies, Matthew Charles-Jones*

### What's on in December and January - check all events here:

**December** <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2014/12/17/month/all/all/1>

**January** <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/2015/01/15/month/all/all/1>

### Living Lightly <http://www.ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly>

**Living Lightly** articles have been published in Saturday's Border Mail Pulse section for over four years. Thanks to Karen Bowley for keeping things moving along this year. The last date for publication is 20th December and the column resumes again on 7th February 2015. Karen would love articles up her sleeve for next year as, after finishing on 20th December, **she has no more!!** So please help to make 2015 another great year for *Living Lightly* by sending your 400 word article(s) to [kbowley53@gmail.com](mailto:kbowley53@gmail.com).

#### Recent articles

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/running-ninety-nine-acre> By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/seasonal-herbaceous-wetlands> by Alan Hewett, Chiltern Landcare member

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/hobby-farming-out-west> By Roger Findlay, Gerogery West

<http://ecoportal.net.au/living-lightly/kids-parties> by Melissa Kane

## North East Regional Sustainability Alliance - NERSA

Every two months representatives of the various groups meet in Beechworth to exchange news and ideas and it's great to see how active they are. Here is a snapshot of some of the stories from the last meeting in December:

### Beechworth Urban Landcare and Sustainability BULS <http://www.buls.org.au>

BULS second **Patch to Patch** was very successful with well over 100 people attending and gaining confidence and inspiration to grow their own food. Patch to Patch was highly commended in the Sustainability Awards. The **Beechworth Food Co-Op** is progressing very rapidly with the doors opening at the Mayday Village venue on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Memberships are now being taken [www.buls.org.au/foodcoop](http://www.buls.org.au/foodcoop)

### Benalla Sustainable Future Group BSFG

The **Sustainable Housing Forum**, a joint project between Benalla Rural City and Benalla Sustainable Future Group, was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre. There were 45 participants for this full day forum and the evaluations from the participants were very positive. John Lloyd puts out a quarterly e-newsletter which is packed full of comment and information. Contact him if you would like to be added to his list. [andrewslloyd@inet.net.au](mailto:andrewslloyd@inet.net.au)

### Wangaratta Sustainability Network WSN

The **Carp Muster** on 9<sup>th</sup> November was very successful and last year's event was awarded the Keep Australia Beautiful Community Event Award for small towns. All three Wangaratta secondary schools are now involved with ongoing environmental programs with various groups including the Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group. For any WSN news, newsletters or events see [www.wangarattasustainability.org](http://www.wangarattasustainability.org)

### Yack Sustainability

The **Yack Community Centre** retrofit has included a host of environmental upgrades. The most recent power bill showed a 76% reduction in cost and the generation of 40% more power on site than was used during the quarter. *Into Our Hands* has agreed to offer Yack Sustainability money to commission a sculpture which will be street art at the Yack Community Centre. This will also serve the purpose of being a water bubbler, bottle filler and dog watering bowl. The **Community Garden** continues to offer a great resource to the town with regular planting and harvesting sessions. The garden now includes a wood fired oven and a BBQ. **TRY, Totally Renewable Yackandandah**, was officially launched on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. It has a great website courtesy of Michael Rosenbrock: [www.totallyrenewableyack.org.au](http://www.totallyrenewableyack.org.au) And finally congratulations to Ali Pockley, editor of **Yackity Yak**, which is always jam-packed full of information and local news: [http://www.yackandandah.com/yy/yackity\\_yak\\_issue\\_57.pdf](http://www.yackandandah.com/yy/yackity_yak_issue_57.pdf)

## Indigo Shire Sustainability Awards 2014

**St Joseph's Primary School** in Beechworth has taken the top gong in the 2014 Indigo Sustainability Awards. The school was acknowledged for its amazing achievements over the last 18 months, including development of a School Environment Management Plan, establishment of a dedicated Sustainability Committee made up of teachers and parents, roll out of a 'sustainability electives program' run by parents, and construction of a chook house, vegetable gardens and worm farms. The most recent and ambitious initiative was the creation of a 'Frog Bog' during 2014 to slow and purify storm water and attract wildlife in a degraded parcel of land along the western boundary of the school. These achievements were made possible through securing over \$6,000 in funding and partnering with a number of generous organisations. For more information visit the school's website: <http://www3.sjbeechworth.catholic.edu.au/index.php/information/sustainability>

## Other local news

### Squirrel Glider Urban Nest Box Project – Thurgoona and Splitters Creek

The Albury Conservation Company has just launched a project which will construct and supply 100 Squirrel Glider nest boxes to residents in the more built up areas of Thurgoona and Splitters Creek. Squirrel Gliders are a NSW-listed threatened species that live in Eucalypts and nest in tree hollows. Nest boxes can help supplement the availability of tree hollows that take 100+ years to form and are a declining resource across many parts of Australia due to habitat removal. Participation in the project is free to approved applicants. The project runs until May 2015 and is being funded by the NSW Government's Environmental Trust via a Great Eastern Ranges Initiative grant in 2014/15. Members of the Thurgoona Men's Shed are constructing the nest boxes. To find out more visit <http://ecoportal.net.au/event> or contact Sam Niedra – [sam@nct.org.au](mailto:sam@nct.org.au), M 0448 806 256

### Jamie's Ministry of Food Mobile Kitchen

Making its new home in Wodonga for ten weeks, Jamie's Ministry of Food Mobile Kitchen will begin classes on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015, delivering a five week cooking course to residents of Wodonga. As part of **Healthy Together Wodonga**, an initiative delivered by Wodonga Council, residents will have the opportunity to access and participate in an innovative, community based cooking program built on Jamie's beliefs about cooking and the associated impact on healthy living. Classes cost \$10 per session and \$5 for concession. Bookings are now open to Wodonga residents and can be booked through [jamiesministryoffood.com](http://jamiesministryoffood.com). To register as a volunteer with Jamie's Ministry of Food Victorian Mobile Kitchen during its time in Wodonga, contact Wodonga Council directly on (02) 6022 9300.

## **Cooking with the sun: beyond the eggs on the dashboard**

Forget about turning the oven on and heating up the kitchen on hot days. Use the sun to cook! Great story from ABC Local featuring Karen Retra's solar cooker: <http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2014/12/02/4140546.htm>

## **Community energy**

In addition to our own region's TRY, here are more great initiatives from around the country:

### **Lismore community solar farm**

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/lismore-gives-green-light-to-200kw-community-owned-solarfarm-39891>

### **Newstead- Victoria Labor plans 100% renewable town**

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/victoria-labor-plans-100-renewable-energy-town-near-bendigo-86213>

### **Byron Bay pushes for community owned clean energy**

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-27/byron-bay-pushes-for-community-owned-clean-energy/5920272?WT.mc\\_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-27/byron-bay-pushes-for-community-owned-clean-energy/5920272?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

### **Melbourne councils band together to buy clean energy**

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/18/melbourne-councils-band-together-to-buy-100gw-of-clean-energy-direct>

## **Renewables**

### **Solar power**

Here is a story that gives one hope <http://motherboard.vice.com/read/how-solar-power-could-slay-the-fossil-fuel-empire-by-2030>

### **Portugal's rise in renewable energy – a great ABC story**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-20/portugals-rise-in-renewable-energy-market/5906758>

### **Will Munich be world's first 'megacity' to reach 100% renewables?**

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/will-munich-be-worlds-first-megacity-to-reach-100-renewables-28292>

## **Recent articles**

### **UN climate resolution in Lima increases pressure for domestic action**

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2014/12/15/4148607.htm>

### **The strengthening economic case for fossil fuel divestment**

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2014/strengthening-economic-case-fossil-fuel-divestment-30725>

### **Australia 'not recognising' global climate issues**

That's the view of physicist and Nobel Laureate Dr. Steven Chu, who was Secretary of Energy for US President Barack Obama until April last year.. Excellent interview on RN Breakfast:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australia-not-recognising-global-climate-issues-chu/5956320>

### **The Insatiable God – George Monbiot**

<http://www.monbiot.com/2014/11/18/the-insatiable-god/>

## **For those last minute presents....**

Here are some great ideas from the Green Christmas Guide produced by the Green Team at City of Wodonga. Thanks to Michelle Wilkinson for this initiative:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0xr8h0brd4ogw4t/Greener%20Christmas.pdf?dl=0>

**Thanks again** to everyone who provided content for this newsletter and thanks for all the support during 2014. Next one is due out on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please send any items for inclusion by 19<sup>th</sup> January to [jdjbdavies@gmail.com](mailto:jdjbdavies@gmail.com)

***Wishing you all a safe and peaceful festive season***

***Warm regards,  
Jenny Davies***

**WATCH website** <http://watch.id.au> **WATCH email address:** [watch.albwod@gmail.com](mailto:watch.albwod@gmail.com)